

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the application. New claim 35 is presented for consideration. Claims 6-8, 14-18, 20, 25 and 34 are hereby cancelled.

Claims 1-3, 9-13, 19, 21 and 25-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,557 (Larson) in view of the U.S. Patent No. 6,040,771 (Kim). Claims 4, 5, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Larson in view of Kim, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,349,345 (Vanderschel).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 9-13, 19, 21-24 and 26-31, and favorable consideration of new claim 35 are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Bangachon for the courtesies extended him during the interview on September 8, 2004.

During the interview, claim 1, as amended herein, was discussed. The Examiner agreed that claim 1 distinguishes over the art of record.

Independent claim 27 is directed to an apparatus with an electronic lock through which a plurality of different types of transactions can be performed, including at least (a) currency processing and (b) changing the state of the safe. The control signal received at an input/output port from the control unit remotely from the safe causes the above-mentioned transactions to be performed without requiring intervention by a user of the safe at the safe.

As noted during the interview, none of the patents to Larson, Kim or Vanderschel, taken either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an apparatus for remotely controlling a safe with an electronic lock capable of performing the transactions claimed,

namely a) changing the state of the safe between open and closed, and b) performing the currency processing, to include the numerous transactions specified in the application.

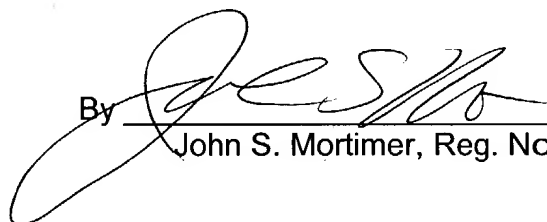
Accordingly, claims 1 and 27 are believed allowable. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from either of claims 1 or 27 and recite further significant detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 9-13, 19, 21-24, 26-33, consideration of new claim 35, and allowance of the case are requested.

Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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